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NOTE FOR:

Apparently a radio station in Missouri (KMOX) recently attributed the following statement to the Director:

"The United States does not have a capability to react in the manner of the Israeli commando unit in securing the release of the hostages held by terrorists at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda."

A constituent of Representative Bill Burlison (D., Mo.) takes strong exception to this reported statement. The constituent was formerly in a U.S. ranger battalion in World War II and believes the U.S. does have the capability to pull off Entebbe-type raids. Burlison believes the Director was probably misquoted and has asked for clarification of the statement.

Andy Falkiewicz recalls that during a question and answer session following a speech by the Director in San Francisco, someone asked whether the U.S. had been in any way involved in the Entebbe raid. Falkiewicz said that he believes the Director said the U.S. Government was not involved, but he does not remember there being any discussion about U.S. capability in this respect. Falkiewicz said he would listen to the tapes of this question and answer session, but I wanted to make sure this was the only incident where the Director may have made a statement that could have been misconstrued on this subject. Could you help us shed any light on this?

Office of Legislative Counsel

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